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Idaho Field Office • PO Box 1699 • Boise, Idaho 83701
1-800-691-9987 • www.nass.usda.gov



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Media Contact: Bill Meyer, Tel # (208) 334-1507
nass-id@nass.usda.gov

Idaho Red Meat Production Down 25 Percent From Last Year

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for August 2006 totaled 21.4 million pounds, down 25 percent from last year according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. August production was down 1 percent from the 21.7 million pounds produced in July. Accumulated red meat production for the January-August 2006 period totaled 190.7 million pounds, down 13.9 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.24 billion pounds in August, up 4 percent from the 4.10 billion pounds produced in August 2005. Beef production, at 2.44 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.13 million head, up 5 percent from August 2005. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,275 pounds. Veal production totaled 14.2 million pounds, 4 percent above August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 66,700 head, up 2 percent from August 2005. The average live weight was unchanged from last year, at 347 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.77 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.09 million head, 1 percent above August 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 263 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 14.6 million pounds, was down 5 percent from August 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 227,000 head, 1 percent below last year. The average live weight was 129 pounds, down 5 pounds from August a year ago. January to August 2006 commercial red meat production was 31.3 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 7 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.

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